

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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imagery analysis report

Indian Mobile Troposcatter System (TSR)

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INDIAN MOBILE TROPOSCATTER SYSTEM (TSR)

1. (TSR) A mobile troposcatter system, probably of indigenous design, was identified with the Indian Air Force at Bhatinda Airfield [redacted] Figure 1) on [redacted] A similar mobile system was identified previously with the army at Ambala Barracks Area [redacted] in April (Figure 2). The intraservice coordinated development of a mobile system would give the Indian military forces the ability to quickly deploy a fully compatible communication system to areas where permanent troposcatter stations do not exist. Such a system also could be used as a backup for existing fixed stations, giving the facility an additional command and control element.

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2. (S/WNINTEL) At Bhatinda Airfield, the system consisted of two troposcatter dish antennas, each approximately [redacted] in diameter and mounted on a short mast; an electronics van trailer; two generators; and three cargo trucks. The mobile system was about 1,500 meters west-northwest of a fixed facility, Bhatinda Troposcatter Station [redacted]. The fixed troposcatter antennas are oriented in the direction of Sirsa Troposcatter Station [redacted], while the mobile antennas were set up on an azimuth in the direction of Suratgarh New Airfield (BE [redacted]), thus giving Bhatinda an added communications capability.

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3. (TSR) Fixed troposcatter antenna stations and production plants for troposcatter systems have previously been identified in India.¹ Furthermore, a mobile troposcatter communications system reportedly is being produced for the military forces by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad [redacted]. The antennas observed with the air force at Bhatinda Airfield and with the army at Ambala Barracks Area appeared to be similar to a mobile troposcatter antenna reportedly being tested at the BEL test facility south of New Delhi.²

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REFERENCES

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. [redacted] PIR-047/79, *Indian Troposcatter Antenna Station Summary (TSR)*, Jun 79 (TOP SECRET [redacted])
2. DoD. IIR 6 844 0085 78, *Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), India*, Mar 78 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Middle East and Free World Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] [redacted]

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